

Newsletter

2nd Edition

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Reviewing the concept of the Reboot training provision

During the final months of 2019, the Reboot partnership carried out a review process, inviting higher education graduates who are unemployed or underemployed, training organisations and career consultants, as well as SMEs and companies to share with us their opinion on the training material to be developed: its usability, appearance and overall structure. The reviewers have been provided with selected material (6 out of 22 soft-skills training units) reflecting the methodological approach for training content development, the self-assessment tests complementing the training material, as well as the envisaged tools to help trainees structure a portfolio for soft-skills acquisition and demonstration.

The review process has been facilitated by online questionnaires. Project partners Vaasa University of Applied Sciences – VAMK (Finland – project coordinator), CONEXX – Europe (Belgium), Inova Consultancy Ltd. (UK) and Militos Consulting (Greece) were responsible for undertaking the testing process. Overall, approximately 100 reviewers from the three target audiences have been involved in the process, providing the project partnership with valuable feedback and insights, which will help in optimising the Reboot training course towards its final development stage. Here are the main points of the feedback we received:

Training content Review

- Overall, the skills modules have been found to be useful, informative and engaging for all three target groups.
- Employers and training organisations were most likely to rate the modules as being useful compared to graduates.
- Higher education graduates stated that most of the indicative modules would be very helpful for developing skills in the given areas.
- Interactivity seems to be preferred by the reviewers and especially the higher education graduates.
- Text length should be controlled in order to give way to more engaging material and challenges
- Engagement is more likely with some of the 22 soft skills than with others, according to the feedback from the higher education graduates

Portfolio structuring Review

- The concept of the portfolio seems to be clear, supporting the idea that portfolios can help one to understand, discover and demonstrate own skills and competences.
- However, employment organisations valued the usefulness of a portfolio as a tool to describe skills, competences and work experience, much higher than higher education graduates.
- The Higher education graduates expected a definition of 'what a portfolio is', as well as highlighting its benefits compared to a traditional CV.
- More concrete and diverse portfolio examples would be welcomed to help trainees identify with and get inspiration from.

Self-tests Review

- The guidelines, structure and layout of the Reboot self-tests, complementing the training course, are clear and useful.
- The narrative approach is appropriate and prompts reflection.
- The suggested inline appearance of the self-tests is attractive.
- Simplification has been suggested in some cases (i.e. questions narration).

We are in the right direction...

We appreciate and value the feedback received...

We are optimising...

Reboot pilots to take place in Finland, Belgium, Greece and the UK

Reboot pilot trainings will be carried out in Finland, Belgium, Greece and the UK in early 2020. A number of unemployed and underemployed higher education graduates, as well as trainers and facilitators will take part in the pilot trainings in each country. Pilots will be carried out as virtual and blended learning, and evaluated by the subjects, in order to obtain the best results for the final training structure and instructions of the training and the benefit of the end-users.

More to come towards the finish line of the Reboot project

Next steps:

- Finalisation of the Reboot training platform (open access in English, Finnish, French and Greek).
- Development of two Handbooks (for higher education graduates and employment training organisations/trainers): How-to guides integrating the Reboot training methodology, tools, examples, which will be reviewed and evaluated by HE students and trainers respectively. They will be available in English, Finnish, French and Greek.
- The final Reboot event will take place in Athens, Greece in late June 2020.
- 4 promotional events to take place in Belgium, Finland and the UK from June to August 2020. Stay tuned for the scheduled dates in your country!

Stay tuned for more news!

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